

museums, the contributions of steam railroading to the development of the United States will never be forgotten. And the lives and duties of the men and women who labored in the yards, roundhouses, stations and trains will be preserved for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the 10th anniversary of Steamtown National Historic Site and in acknowledging the United States Park Service for its role in maintaining what has become a national treasure.

CELEBRATING THE FIRST DAY OF SALE OF THE 2005-2006 DUCK STAMP

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the first day of sale ceremony for the 2005-2006 duck stamp.

It is a great honor to be present today at the first day of sale ceremony. As you may know, Kerissa Nelson, a fellow Wisconsinite, is the artist behind this new stamp, and I would like to take a moment to commend Kerissa on her magnificent work. With the encouragement of her art teacher, Kerissa undertook the great challenge of competing in this year's duck stamp contest, and it is clear that her months of hard work paid off. Kerissa, the stamp is beautiful.

However, it is not just the beauty of the stamp that strikes me, but also the message that it conveys. Growing up in Wisconsin, I have a deep-seated love for the outdoors and enjoy hunting and fishing with my two little boys, whose company in the duck blind is the ultimate experience for me. I not only hope to pass on the traditions on hunting to them, but I also hope to pass on the importance of preserving the outdoors and our nation's wildlife.

I am aware that Kerissa is also an avid lover of the outdoors, shooting trap on a weekly league and hunting with her dad, and I commend Kerissa on her ability to convey both the love of hunting and the importance of conservation in the stamp she has designed.

Since the federal duck stamp's inception in 1934, these works of art have raised nearly \$700 million to help acquire more than 5.2 million acres of wetlands. Nearly 98 cents out of every duck stamp dollar goes directly for land acquisition on national wildlife refuges—benefiting hundreds of refuges found in every state. This stamp is more than art work; it is a guarantee that our nation's wildlife population will not be threatened by human interference.

Again, thank you, Kerissa, for your great contribution to this cause. Thank you also to everyone who is helping to celebrate Kerissa's achievement and the first day of sale for the new duck stamp.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on June 30, 2005, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote No.

341, on agreeing to the King (IA) amendment to H.R. 3058, the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 2006. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 341.

EMERGENCY SPENDING TO SUPPORT A VA BUDGET SHORTFALL

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, it has been recently reported by the Department of Veterans Affairs that the veterans healthcare system will have \$1 billion deficit at the end of FY 05.

I, like many other Members of Congress, am extremely concerned regarding this recent disclosure. As we continue to fight the Global war on terror and in Operation Iraqi Freedom, we need to ensure that the full range of veterans medical services are available for our returning veterans and those that have served before them. Our veterans are not served by taking funds from the VA capital investment account. These funds are vital to the purchase of new equipment and the maintenance and upkeep of VA facilities. I feel that these funds are critical to the total healthcare of a veteran. It is important that we find the funding necessary to address this shortfall and ensure that this does not occur again.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we must provide funding to make up for the shortfall in veterans healthcare, and I urge you to work with our colleagues on the Appropriations and Veterans' Affairs Committees to move legislation forward as soon as possible to address this shortfall.

THE HEALTHY START REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to announce that, with my colleague Rep. EDOLPHUS TOWNS, I am introducing legislation to reauthorize the Healthy Start Act.

The Healthy Start program works to reduce the incidence of infant mortality and low birth weight and eliminate perinatal disparities in communities across the Nation where the infant mortality rate is in excess of 150 percent of the national average. The program, which began as a successful demonstration project in 1991 under the leadership of Health and Human Services Secretary Lewis Sullivan and was overwhelmingly authorized by Congress in 2000, has at its core the recognition that infant mortality and morbidity are not just medical problems, they are community problems. To qualify for a Healthy Start grant, communities must buy-in by forming networks of community public and private decision-makers and leaders, educators, health professionals, and family members to set ambitious goals for themselves and work in a coordinated and ef-

fective way to meet those goals. These programs are targeted to at-risk populations and are characterized by aggressive outreach to reach young women who are pregnant and/or are already mothers, as well as fathers, who live in communities with the toughest poverty, drug use, and unemployment.

We are fortunate to have a Healthy Start program in Kalamazoo, Michigan, in my Congressional district. Our Healthy Start Family Resource Center offers prenatal care, WIC resources, transportation, personal counseling and many other services. So far, 100 percent of the expectant mothers who have received prenatal care and other services through the center have delivered healthy babies.

The Healthy Start Reauthorization Act will reauthorize the program for fiscal years 2006 through 2011 at "such sums as may be necessary."

Please join Rep. TOWNS and me in supporting this legislation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TOTTEENVILLE GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the stellar softball season for the Tottenville Girls Softball Team on their recent City Championship victory.

The Tottenville Pirates dominated the Public School Athletic League this season with an amazing 189 runs scored while only allowing an even more stunning 6 runs. More than 200 fans showed up to see if Tottenville was in fact for real. They went about their business as usual and recorded a 1-0 victory for the school's first Metro Bowl softball title—and they did it against arguably the top program in New York City.

Tottenville coach said they have prepared for this by playing against the top competition throughout New York City. And after the championship game, it was obvious that play against the best paid off.

On behalf of family, friends, fans, and the entire 13th Congressional District of Staten Island and Brooklyn, New York, I would like to again congratulate the Tottenville Girls Softball Team for their outstanding season. Each player, coach, and fan should be very proud of their efforts. I commend them for their drive, desire, and sportsmanship that they revealed throughout the season.

The Girls Tottenville Roster is as follows: Stefani Allen, Lauren Bello, Samantha Bennett, Ashley Brandow, Erin Dailey, Tara Dolton, Kim Ferraiolo, Megan Gardella, Michelle Gardella, Jessica Herrera, Alison Holtermann, Karisa Pietromonico, Nicole Pomponio, Christine Rode, Rebecca Sloan, Diana Stout, Brittney Stratton, Samantha Wagner.

Coaches: Cathy Morano, John Leverock, Victor Vazquez, Gene Castellucci, Joanna Pellicchia.